

**An Archaeological Survey
of the Fred R. Pape Subdivision, Bexar County, Texas**

SUBMITTED TO

**Land Resources Corporation
San Antonio, Texas**

By

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Abstract

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants conducted an archaeological inspection of the Fred R. Pape subdivision. The entire property was an open pit gravel quarry which has been filled in with road construction waste to partially restore the landscape. There are no intact geological deposits present that might contain Holocene archaeological materials. No further archaeological work is necessary.

Introduction

Abasolo Archaeological Consultants conduct an archeological survey of 4.5 acres proposed for the Fred R. Pape subdivision bordering Salado Creek in northern Bexar County. A pedestrian survey of the construction site was carried out in accordance with the "Archeological Survey Standards for Texas" and City of San Antonio established standards to insure that no significant archaeological or historical resources are damaged or destroyed due to the planned work. The work was done under contract with Land Resources Corporation at the request of the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

Setting and Background

A review of maps and plans provided by Land Resources Corporation indicates the location of the project borders Ira Lee Street in the Salado Creek valley between Loop 410 and the Old Austin Highway in north San Antonio, an area that has a very high probability of archaeological sites. Salado Creek is a major spring-fed creek and its banks were utilized as campsites throughout much of Bexar County prehistory. Indeed, the upper Salado Creek watershed has received more archaeological attention than any other drainage across northern Bexar County. Previous archaeological surveys and excavations along Salado Creek in northern Bexar County have documented prehistoric Native American campsites as well as areas of lithic resource exploitation (Black and McGraw 1985; Hester et al. 1974; Potter and Black 1995; Schuetz 1966). Lithic procurement sites occur in the uplands along minor streams downstream from Edwards chert outcrops in the Cretaceous Edwards Limestone exposed along the front edge of the Balcones Escarpment. Lithic procurement types of sites and localities are marked by debris from stone tool manufacture, and often spent tools. While lithic resource sites are anticipated within the project area, there is high potential for prehistoric campsites to occur in this area of the valley. Campsites can be identified by the presence of concentrated areas of hearthstones (fire-cracked rock), chipped stone manufacturing debris, and spent tools.

Previous archaeological surveys and excavations on nearby properties have identified eight archaeological sites, including the Granburg (41BX17) (Schuetz 1966) and Granburg II (41BX271; T. R. Hester, personal communication) sites. Archaeological excavations at both of these sites yielded cultural materials dating from Late Prehistoric

times (A. D. 1000) to early Archaic times (ca. 9,000 B.P.). Other sites such as 41BX479 represent areas of either light prehistoric occupation or places where high quality chert was procured to manufacture stone tools. Six of the sites were recorded during the UTSA Tobins Oakwell Farms survey conducted by Al McGraw and Fred Valdez in 1977 (Texas Historic Site Atlas). The Fred R. Pape property was bordered by the UTSA survey but was not included in the area inspected.

Scope of Services

A 100% pedestrian survey was conducted over the 4.5 acre property. The survey was carried out in accordance to the "Archeological Standards of Texas" and with City of San Antonio established standards.

Survey Findings

The survey was carried out by the author on August 5, 2008, accompanied by Nancy Pawel, Sue Ellen Turner, and Eloise Stoker. The party traversed the entire property only to discover that the 4.5 acres to be developed consists of a filled-in open pit gravel quarry. A high bulldozed berm borders the property on the east side separating the quarry from the Salado Creek floodplain. A meter-high bank defines the quarry on the west side from the Ira Lee road cut. The topography in Figure 1 shows the berm and bank, and an aerial perspective is shown in Figure 2. The property immediately to the east is owned and currently utilized by the H. B. Zachary Company. The quarry was abandoned and filled-in over 20 years ago based on the size of the invader trees and other vegetation on the property (Fig. 3). The reclamation fill consists of rocks, concrete, asphalt, and other construction debris. There are no intact geological deposits of Holocene age (or within the last 10,000 years) on the property that would contain intact archaeological deposits.

Recommendations

No further archaeological work is recommended for the Fred R. Pape subdivision. The entire property to be developed consists of an abandoned and subsequently filled in gravel quarry. No intact geological deposits of Holocene age that might contain archaeological resources exist on the property.

References Cited

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Figures

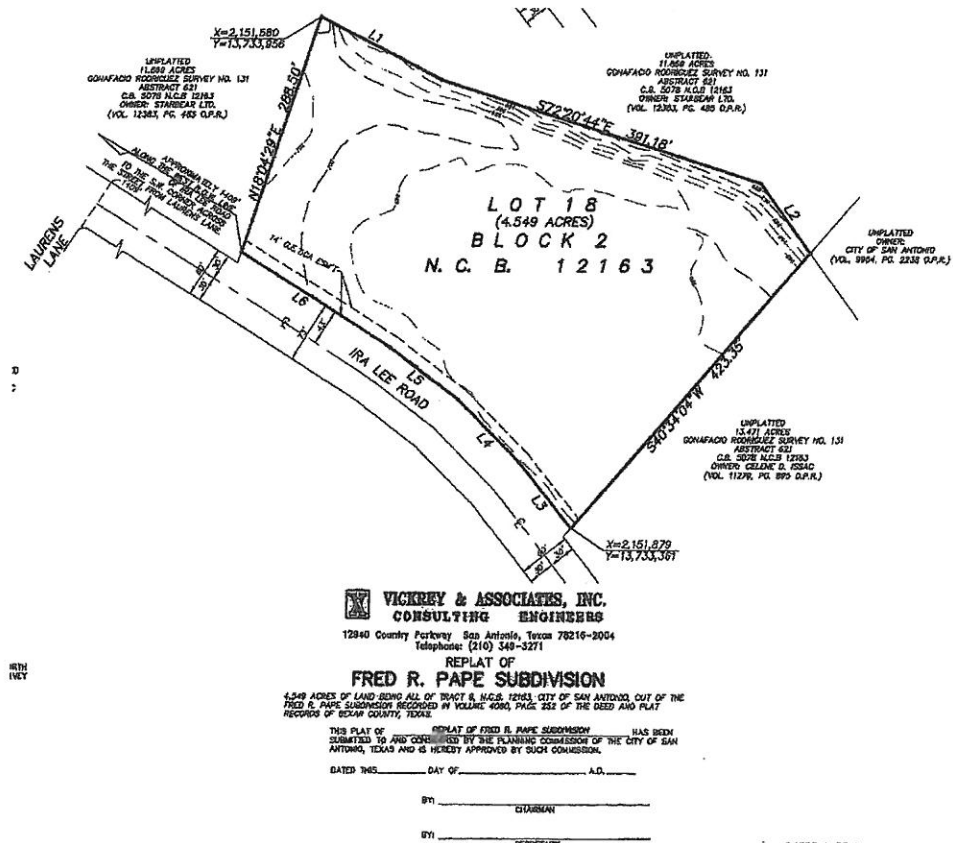


Figure 1. Plat map showing the topography of the Fred R. Pape Subdivision. Note the topographic relief indicating the berm on the north side and filled in area across the property.



Figure 2. Google Earth image of the Fred R. Pape Subdivision property.



Figure 3. Views of the Fred R. Pape subdivision property showing the disturbed landscape and invader shrubs.